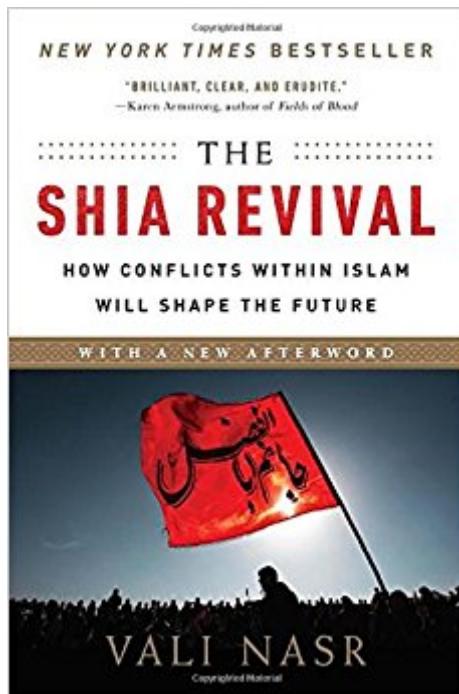


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# The Shia Revival (Updated Edition)



## Synopsis

“Historically incisive, geographically broad-reaching, and brimming with illuminating anecdotes.” Max Rodenbeck, *New York Review of Books* One of America’s leading commentators on current events in the Middle East, Iranian-born scholar Vali Nasr brilliantly dissects the political and theological antagonisms within Islam in this “smart, clear and timely” book (*Washington Post*). Still essential and still timely ten years after its original publication, *The Shia Revival* provides a unique and objective understanding of the 1,400-year bitter struggle between Shias and Sunnis and sheds crucial light on its modern-day consequences. A new epilogue elucidates the rise of ISIS and ongoing tensions between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Broad-ranging and detailed, but still eminently readable.” L. Carl Brown, *Foreign Affairs*  
“Arguably the best book on the market that provides a critical background to the emotionally charged events we have been witnessing in Iran, Iraq, Lebanon and beyond.” Nader Hashemi, *Globe and Mail*  
“The value of Mr. Nasr’s account lies in the context he gives to today’s headlines.” The Economist

Vali Nasr is Dean and Professor of International Affairs at Johns Hopkins University’s School of Advanced International Studies.

This book, now in its second edition, might be viewed as an explanation of President Obama's Middle East policy. Its claim is that Shia Muslims are the up-and-coming people of the Middle East, pushing Islam into a civilized encounter with the world as Sunnism grows darker. The author presents a narrative of Shia beginnings up to the current Syrian civil war. At Muhammad's death in 632 CE, his followers were faced with the task of deciding the next leader of their community, who was known as the "caliph". Opinion was divided between the choice of Abu Bakr, an upstanding individual backed by a council of elders, and Ali, the only living male descendent of the Prophet. Abu Bakr was the choice of the majority, known as Sunnis from the word for "tradition

Very comprehensive explanation of Shia and Sunni history-- dense and fact packed but readable and really puts things in perspective. Our book group tackled it, as food for a great discussion. Not as easy read as packed with information. Used the blank back pages to make a running list of Sunni vs Shia concepts to help me keep it straight. Book also does a good job of helping reader see parallels with similar ideological/nationalistic/fundamentalist etc. conflicts in the West. Highly recommend.

a very important book that I read when it first came out. Lent it to someone and bought a second copy for my library. It is informative and I am glad that I read it to get understanding of the aftermath and consequences of Saddam Hussein's death.

good memory. low price. very fast, receive it next day, just buy one for myself, This is my first review ever. This product is so sharp it is scary! Best investment ever at a great price!

The history of the Shia with a background of ancient history and a focus on Iranian Revolution going forward. Very informative and complete.

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